

From: Norm Gilbert
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/21/02 2:51pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I fully supported Judge Jackson's decision to split up Microsoft into two companies. Unfortunately, while Judge Jackson's decision was correct based upon the evidence, he was not judicious when explaining his decision to the media, opening the door to Microsoft for an appeal.

I am convinced that, with the change of administrations, the government has decided to give Microsoft a free ride and has backed off in its enforcement of the anti-trust laws, to the detriment of consumers and to the benefit of the monopolist Bill Gates.

Allowing Gates to essentially buy his way out of an anti-trust judgement by donating equipment or software that only furthers his monopoly control is absurd in the extreme.

Thank goodness the states Attorneys General are not so easily corruptible as is President Bush, who has demonstrated that he's for sale to the highest bidder in donations and support (for proof, look at the Enron matter!)

If Gates wants to give money to schools and libraries, give it with no strings attached and let it be spent on Apple Macintosh equipment or Sun SPARC servers and not on Windows based hardware and software.

However, the best solution by far is to break the company into two parts, with one company owning the Windows Operating System franchise and the other having all the games, applications and Microsoft network.

Microsoft's conduct has been anti-competitive and unfair to its customers and competitors and they should not be rewarded for their illegal conduct.

This proposed settlement is simply not good government and reeks of corruption, payoffs, and political favors. Microsoft broke the law; enforce the law and extract a real penalty that corrects the situation permanently and prevents Microsoft from continuing its anti-trust activities in the future.

CC: microsoftsettlement@alexbrubaker.com@inetgw